

To the Right Honourable, the Lords and
Commons in Parliament Assembled,

The humble Petition of the Gentry, Ministers, Free-holders, and other substantiall
Inhabitants of the County of YORK.

June 8. 1642

Sheweth,



That they cannot be affraid, themselves, or any other shall incur your displeasures for declaring their just feares in an humble way, or representing that these generall distractions have a more powerfull influence and operation upon this particular County, than upon any other Member, or part of this Kingdom, whereby for divers years last past it hath endured the miseries which inevitably follow Armies, paying neverthelesse Taxes and Subsidies, equally to other Counties which have been free from those Burdens and Pressures, and have besides laid out great sums of Money for billiting Souldiers (whereof a very small part is hitherto re-imbursed) to the great exhauling the whole County, and ruine of divers Persons and Families: Yet the discontented Retirement of His Majestie from you His great Councell, and the different Commands since severally issuing and proceeding, especially concerning the Militia, which distracts the mindes of all who desire to build up their obedience upon a sure and knowne foundation, and the great distaste His Majestie takes to have a Garrison, without His allowance, kept so neer His Sacred Person, and the many inconveniences which may from thence arise to this County, doe make us already sensible of more dangerous effects than have hitherto befallen us; especially seeing thereby Trade and Commerce (the very subsistence of this County) which hitherto staid in all the late noise of Armes and Tumults, is now driven away and frightened from among us, whereby we suffer before hand the ruinous consequences of a reall War, and from thence apprehend the greatest of Calamities to follow, unlesse Gods blessing and a speedy union doe happily prevent them from the sense of those imminent mischietes, and consideration of His Majesties Expressions of His good intentions and endeavours for Peace and a right Vnderstanding, we are bold in all humility to Petition,

That a timely remedy may be applyed, lest our Disease grow desperately past Cure, without such applications as may endanger the vitall Spirits of the Kingdom: That since your selves have declared his Majesties absence to be the main hinderance of this necessary Work, and his Majesty expressed his willingnesse to return when you shall give life to the Laws of the Land, for his security against Tumults; That his Majesty may receive such assurance, for His secure residing in all places, and such Invitations as may allure His abode with you, his Great Councell; That such a due regard may be had for the reparation of his Majesties Honour, as well in this unfortunate businesse of Hull, as (where it hath in any sort beene blemished, and where he may iustly expect it) together with the safety of the Kingdom, as may evidence to all the world, that nothing is dearer to us then the security and glory of our King and Kingdom, whose Honour and Reputation, both at home and abroad, must stand and fall together; That his Majesties gracious Message of the twentieth of January (which your selves then so termed, and gave humble thanks for) as also his others since his retirement, may be taken into such serious consideration, as may give hopes to all good Subjects of an effectuall concurrence: That we may not be distracted by contrary Commands, but that the known Law of the Land, which we humbly conceive is the fundamentall Liberty of the Subject, and no Arbitrary government may be the Rule of our Obedience, and the Guide and Determiner of all our Actions and Differences: And we, according to our Allegiance, shall be ready to maintain His Majesties Royall Person, Crown, and Dignity, his iust Rights and Prerogative, together with the lawfull Priviledges of Parliament, the iust Liberty of the Subject, the true Protestant Profession, and the Peace of the Land.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

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Richard Lownes, June 8. 1642.